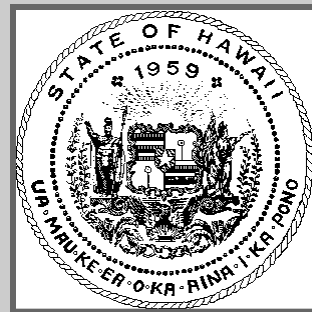




## Legislative Newsletter 2009

Representative Lyla Berg, Ph.D.  
18th Representative District  
State Capitol, Room 324  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6510  
Fax: (808) 586-6511  
Email: Repberg@capitol.hawaii.gov



### 2009 Calendar of Events

Community Celebration Dinner  
at Aina Haina school  
Friday, January 16

Opening Day of Legislature  
Wednesday, January 21

First Crossover of Bills  
Tuesday, March 10

Human Rights Day at the Capitol  
Leader for a Day Youth Shadowing  
Thursday, March 12

Prince Kuhio Day  
(State Offices Closed)  
Thursday, March 26

Co-Host Consular Corp Luncheon  
Wednesday, April 1

Good Friday  
(State Offices Closed)  
Friday, April 10

Second Crossover of Bills  
Tuesday, April 14

Final Crossover of Bills  
Tuesday, May 5

Closing of Legislative Session  
Thursday, May 7

Rep. Berg Community Forum  
Location TBA  
Wednesday, May 13

### Rep. Berg's Testimony for the Task Force on the Future of Wailupe School

Representative Berg submitted testimony in early January to the Wailupe Consolidation Task Force in which she suggested the task force consider other perspectives than simple financial calculations when making decisions regarding the future of the school. Specifically, Representative Berg urged the task force to:

1. Ask broad and non-traditional questions regarding the many and various aspects of operating the school, especially as it relates to the ability of the school to meet the learning, social, emotional and physical needs to the children.
2. Survey the Kaiser Complex schools community—not just the neighborhood or the parents of current students—for perspectives on the needs of the community regarding services for children and families, senior citizens, specially-abled persons, Native Hawaiians, etc.
3. Recognize that Kaiser Complex is advancing toward becoming a K-12 International Baccalaureate system, whereby students develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to participate actively and responsibly in a rapidly changing world.
4. Provide updates on the task force's process to Neighborhood #1 (Hawaii Kai) and #2 (Aina Haina).
5. Consider dropping "consolidation" from the name of the task force in order to demonstrate to the community that the decision to consolidate is a foregone conclusion.



"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

Albert Einstein

*For information on other legislative measures:*

[www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

## Legislative Information



Session Staff (L-R): Ian Lind, Jeff May, Jen Wilbur, Liz Labby

## Representative Berg's 2009 Session Staff

Jen Wilbur serves as Office Manager and directs day-to-day duties for both Representative Berg and the office staff. Additionally, she is the coordinator and point of contact for Rep. Berg's Leader for a Day event, held this year on March 12th. This is Jen's 5th session at the legislature as well as her 5th session with Rep. Berg.

Ian Lind was born and raised in the district and handles specific constituent requests. Ian serves as the resident photographer of the office; many of his photos are included in this newsletter. This is his 4th session with Representative Berg.

Liz Labby is the Education Committee Clerk and assists Rep. Berg by collecting, organizing and disseminating testimony. Liz also plays a critical role in organizing our Human Rights Day festivities at the Capitol. Liz is currently pursuing her Ph.D in American Studies and this is her 3rd session with Rep. Berg.

Jeff May is in his first session with Rep. Berg's office and provides assistance for all members of the staff. Jeff has helped craft several resolutions that have been introduced this session.

House Committee (Acronym)	Chair	Vice Chair
Agriculture (AGR)	Rep. Clift Tsuji	Rep. Jessica Wooley
Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)	Rep. Robert N. Herkes	Rep. Glenn Wakai
Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs (EDM)	Rep. Angus L. K. McKelvey	Rep. Isaac W. Choy
Education (EDN)	Rep. Roy M. Takumi	Rep. Lyla B. Berg
Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)	Rep. Hermina M. Morita	Rep. Denny Coffman
Finance (FIN)	Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro	Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Hawaiian Affairs (HAW)	Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Maile Shimabukuro
Health (HLT)	Rep. Ryan I. Yamane	Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Higher Education (HED)	Rep. Jerry L. Chang	Rep. Mark M. Nakashima
Housing (HSG)	Rep. Rida T. R. Cabanilla	Rep. Pono Chong
Human Services (HUS)	Rep. John Mizuno	Rep. Tom Brower
Judiciary (JUD)	Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu	Rep. Ken Ito
Labor & Public Employment (LAB)	Rep. Karl Rhoads	Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Legislative Management (LMG)	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka	Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Public Safety (PBS)	Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. Henry J. C. Aquino
Tourism, Culture & International Affairs (TCI)	Rep. Joey Manahan	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Transportation (TRN)	Rep. Joseph M. Souki	Rep. Karen Leinani Awana
Water, Land & Ocean Resources (WLO)	Rep. Ken Ito	Rep. Sharon E. Har

For the 2009 session, testimony can be submitted by email and testimony packets will be available to download online. Here are key links:

To **register for hearing notices by email**: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/hearing/email1.asp>

For **guidelines on writing testimony**, including recommended online format: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/info/guide/process04.asp?press1=info&press2=guide>;

To **submit testimony online**: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>;

To **download testimony** from committee hearings and informational briefings: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/testimony> ; and

For **information on the legislative process** call the **PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM** at 587-0478 or visit the website at <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>.





september, 2008 • volume 9, number 9

## East Oahu School's Candidacy Accepted

### *Niu Valley Middle School to begin International Baccalaureate Programme*

by LORI ARIZUMI  
Sun Correspondent

There ARE bright spots in Hawaii's public schools, and probably none more luminous than Niu Valley Middle School, whose candidacy has just been accepted to begin an International Baccalaureate Programme.

The International Baccalaureate was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. It started as a single university (college) prep program, which presented a common curriculum and set of external examinations for international students in schools throughout the world. As the program developed, IB focused on a transdisciplinary program of international education, designed to enable students to grow into inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Although the first IB schools were predominantly private international schools, today over half of all IB World Schools are state schools. The IB works with 2,390 schools in 129 countries to offer three IB programs to approximately 651,000 students.

"I am thrilled that Niu Valley Middle School initiated the journey in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) as the first institution in Hawaii to be selected!" said Representative Lyla Berg. "It's been a long process, as I began convening the Kaiser Complex Forums in early 2005. All groups in our community (business, education, non-profit, youth, service organizations, elected officials, etc.) had an opportunity to dialogue and exchange ideas toward a common vision: that of wanting the educational experiences and learning of our area youth to result in their ability to be successful in their professional lives, fulfilled in their personal lives, and contributory in their social lives."

Receiving IB certification entails an arduous process by school personnel, of assessment, visioning, articulation, preparation, teacher training, community engagement, and ongoing monitoring by the international organization. MYP is designed for students aged 11 to 16 (grades 6 - 10), and will be followed into high school.

The overall philosophy of the IB program is expressed through fundamental concepts based on intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication. The five areas of interaction are: approaches to learning; community and service; human ingenuity; environment and health and social education. The discipline areas of mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies are integrated and interwoven in the areas of focus, rather than being separate disciplines.

After all, learning how to learn and how to use information critically is as important as acquiring information.

IB programs encourage a positive attitude to learning by encouraging students to ask challenging questions, to reflect critically, to develop research skills, to learn how to learn and to participate in community service. Teachers assess students by selecting or designing methods of assessment appropriate to the learning outcomes, taking into account the diverse, complicated and sophisticated ways that individual students use to develop and demonstrate their understanding.

"I see the possibility of the Kaiser Complex youth from pre-K through grade 12 becoming the leaders that we so desperately need in our world today," continued Berg. "Niu Valley becoming an IB school resulted from community-engaged dialogues. The choice to become an IB school initiates the transformation of both elementary and high schools in our geographic region. By embracing global education, our youngest children can be increasingly better prepared in tangible, measurable, and relevant ways to meet the challenges they will inevitably face as high school graduates.

"I am most appreciative of the leadership offered by Principal Justin Mew and the faculty to launch our area schools into world class status alongside other schools on various continents," said Berg. "Recognition as an IB school is an indicator that Niu Valley Middle faculty have the vision expressed by the community and that their students will also have the recognition to stand proudly among IB graduates from other countries. Being an IB school deliberately establishes opportunities for our area youth to have learning experiences that will connect them to the global community."



## Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps Opportunities



The Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC) is a hands-on education and service learning program for young people to learn the principles of natural resource stewardship and the importance of sustaining Hawaii's unique natural environment.

The HYCC offers a summer program in which students work to protect and preserve Hawaii's unique environment, gain life skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication and responsibility, and can earn a \$1,000 stipend and up to 3 credit hours at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Additionally, the HYCC offers a year-round internship program that lasts 10-12 months. Students can earn a stipend of \$1250 a month and an educational award of \$4275 upon successful completion of the program.

Students interested in the summer program, or those interested in joining the HYCC as team leaders for the summer program, are encouraged to apply soon due to the **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009** application deadline. For further information contact HYCC at (808) 735-1221 or on the web at [www.hawaiiycc.com](http://www.hawaiiycc.com).



Students from Shanti McCarter's Honolulu Waldorf High School class meet with Representative Berg to discuss community issues

## Opening Day at the State Legislature



Rep. Berg with young constituents



Friends from the neighborhood



Kapolei Middle School Students

## Charter Schools in Hawaii

Charter schools are public schools, funded on a "per pupil" allocation which is separate from the Department of Education. They are state-legislated, legally independent, innovative, outcome-based schools that operate under contract (a "charter") with the *Hawaii Charter School Review Panel* and are governed by local school boards. The Charter School Review Panel authorizes new charter schools and approves amendments to existing charter schools' Detailed Implementation Plans. The law establishes a limit on charter schools at 25 for new start up charter schools and 25 for schools that want to convert from a Department of Education school to a charter school. Charter schools are state public schools, but are not governed by the Department of Education.

Charter schools are best understood as non-traditional educational settings where innovative teaching and curricula can be developed and implemented. Many are designed to deliver programs tailored to educational excellence in the context of needs within the communities they serve. Currently there are 31 charter schools in Hawaii on all islands except Lanai and Ni'ihau. There are 7,603 students in grades K-12 and over 1,000 employees working in charter schools.



## Fiscal Year 2009-2010 School Repair and Maintenance Projects

The Department of Education recently released a list of approved school-related repairs and maintenance projects for the upcoming fiscal year. The following list includes the schools in our district and the aggregate amount of dollars each will receive for these various projects.

Wailupe Valley Elementary School	\$130,000
Niu Valley Middle School	\$134,000
Hahaione Elementary School	\$215,000
Koko Head Elementary School	\$220,000
Kahala Elementary School	\$233,000
Waialae Elementary School	\$250,000
Kamiloiki Elementary School	\$250,000
Aina Haina Elementary School	\$300,000
Kaiser High School	\$360,000
Wilson Elementary School	\$370,000
Kalani High School	\$403,000